



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 16, 2013

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Delegate Yazzie advocates for local youth's musical aspirations

GALLUP, N.M. – On Tuesday, Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) met with the Gallup City Council during their regular city council meeting to discuss the reopening of the local nightclub known as FUEL.

FUEL is a local café and music venue that has opened its doors to local bands of all genres.

During Delegate Yazzie's address to the city council, he expressed his appreciation for local youth bands and the benefits they receive while writing music and performing.

"Gallup has always catered to rodeo, basketball, and track and now Gallup is well known for those activities," said Delegate Yazzie. "When it comes to music, our kids don't have that outlet anymore."

Due to fire code violations, including an inadequate sprinkler system and lack of maximum room occupancy, Gallup zoning officials were forced to close FUEL.

Several local musicians were in attendance to support Delegate Yazzie, and to advocate for the need of a non-alcohol serving music venue in Gallup.

"Currently city zoning ordinances only allow for night clubs adjoined to an existing hotel or restaurant," said Gallup Planning and Zoning director C.B. Strain. "City ordinances do not allow for stand alone night clubs."

Gallup Mayor Jackie McKinny, said he is an avid supporter of the city's youth and music, however he could not ignore fire code violations, as they could lead to fatalities during an emergency.

"The city council would be more than willing to work with Mr. Yazzie to find a place for the youth to perform, we have Red Rock Park," said city councilor Cecil E. Garcia.

Delegate Yazzie said he supports the city in amending zoning ordinances and finding a suitable facility that can house local musical performances.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Gallup City Council agreed to explore the possibility of amending city codes that would allow for non-alcohol music venues to be established in non-residential areas.

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